

Remarks/Arguments

Allowable subject matter

Applicants graciously acknowledge the Examiner's determination that Claim 20 is allowable. Also, Applicants thank the Examiner for his determination that Claims 4, 5, 18 and 19 recite allowable subject matter. New Claims 21 and 22 have been added to incorporate the subject matter that the Examiner found allowable in Claims 4, 5, 18 and 19.

The Rejections of Claims 1-3 and 6-17 under 35 USC §102(b)

In the Office Action of July 31, 2006, Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,649,341 ("Ashline et al."). Applicants contend that the rejection of Claims 1-20 have been rendered moot since Applicants have either cancelled the rejected claims, or amended the rejected claims to be dependent on allowable base claims. Specifically, the following amendments have been filed:

Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Claim 2 has been amended to be dependent on allowable Claim 22.

Claim 3 is now indirectly dependent on allowable Claim 22.

Claim 6 has been amended to be dependent on allowable Claim 22.

Claim 7 is now indirectly dependent on allowable Claim 22.

Claim 8 is now indirectly dependent on allowable Claim 22.

Claim 9 is now indirectly dependent on allowable Claim 22.

Claim 10 is now indirectly dependent on allowable Claim 22.

Claim 11 has been cancelled.

Claim 12 has been amended to be dependent on allowable Claim 21.

Claim 13 is now indirectly dependent on allowable Claim 21.

Claim 14 has been amended to be dependent on allowable Claim 21.

Claim 15 has been amended to be dependent on allowable Claim 21.

Claim 16 has been cancelled.

Claim 17 has been cancelled.

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The Examiner indicated that Claims 4, 5, 18 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants graciously thank the Examiner for this acknowledgement. New Claim 21 has been drafted by including all the limitations of Claims 11 and 18, and the intervening Claims 16 and 17, *i.e.*, the subject matter that was found allowable in Claim 18 and the claims on which it depended. Also, new Claim 22 has been drafted by including all the limitations of Claims 1 and 4, *i.e.*, the subject matter that was allowable in Claim 4 and the claims on which it depended.

Claims 21 and 22, which the rejected Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15 now depend either directly or indirectly, include the subject matter that was found allowable by the Examiner in the previous Office Action. Applicants request reconsideration and submit that Claims 21 and 22 both recite allowable subject matter and are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, all claims dependent on allowable Claims 21, specifically, Claims 12, 13, 14, 15 and 19, are also allowable because they recite limitations in addition to the already allowable content of Claim 21. Furthermore, all claims dependent on allowable Claim 22, specifically, Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, are also allowable because they recite limitations in addition to the already allowable content of Claim 22.

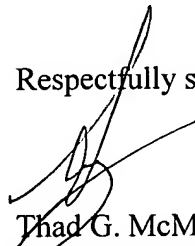
Claim 5 is now dependent on allowable Claim 22, and Claim 19 is now dependent on allowable Claim 21. Therefore, Claims 5 and 19 are also allowable due to their dependency on allowable Claims 22 and 21, respectively.

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Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney of record if such contact will facilitate an efficient examination and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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